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# Impact of Dropping Atomic Bomb Greater Today than Four Decades Ago, According to Historian on Eve of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Anniversary; Hiroshima Day Brings Back a Flood of Memories for Kettering Resident

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Hiroshima, Japan, was bombed on August 6, 1945. Nagasaki was hit on August 9, 1945. The 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, when Germany invaded Poland, is Sept. 1.

## **IMPACT OF DROPPING OF ATOMIC BOMB GREATER TODAY THAN FOUR DECADES AGO, ACCORDING TO HISTORIAN ON EVE OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI ANNIVERSARY**

Technology helped win World War II, but the legacy of dropping the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki more than four decades ago has left a far greater impact on the world than just the ending of the war, according to John Heitmann, a historian of science and technology at the University of Dayton.

The use of the atomic bomb split the scientific community, left the world fearful and marked the beginning of the Cold War. "We had been victorious in war, yet why were we so troubled after V-J Day?" Heitmann asked. "Although the U.S. accomplished the most colossal job in history, Americans came out of it with a deep sense of insecurity and fear."

After World War II ended in 1945, government and industry mounted a "huge public relations campaign" on the benefits of nuclear energy. "We as a culture were very much tied to the notion that technology could solve almost any of our problems," Heitmann said. "There was this enormous outpouring of the positive things that could be done with nuclear energy. People talked about nuclear-powered cars and nuclear-powered turbo jets. It was a very fanciful time."

The atomic bomb shaped the American culture in other ways, according to Heitmann. The bikini takes its name from Bikini Atoll, a series of islands in the South Pacific used for atmospheric testing.

For interviews, contact John Heitmann at (513) 229-2834 or 435-5120.

## **HIROSHIMA DAY BRINGS BACK A FLOOD OF MEMORIES FOR KETTERING RESIDENT**

As a high school student in Hiroshima during World War II, Kimie Payne vividly remembers the day the bomb was dropped. Even today, she becomes emotional when talking about her memories.

"Some of my classmates were killed," said Payne, a secretary in the biology department at the University of Dayton and a Kettering resident. "If I had been at school that day, I might have been killed. We were the lucky ones."

Payne and between 20 and 30 of her classmates were on the outskirts of the city waiting to be transported to a factory, where they would help workers make materials for use in the war.

"We didn't hear anything. We only saw a flash of bright light," she remembered. "We ran into a building and got pinned under it, but only a few girls got hurt. We had to dig ourselves out of the debris. When we got to the street, we couldn't believe what we saw. Houses were destroyed, and women were running with babies in their arms. For two nights from a shelter on a hill, we watched the city burn."

For interview requests, contact Kimie Payne at (513) 229-2523.



*The University of Dayton*

For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Public Relations and University Communications, 229-3241.